

Rewald sues KHON-TV for \$12 million

By Walter Wright
Advertiser Staff Writer

Ronald Rewald yesterday sued KHON-TV for more than \$12 million, saying the station made false and defamatory broadcasts in 1983 which cost him his business, his \$250,000-a-year income and a \$1.8-million interest in a waterfront man-



Rewald

sion. Wally Zimmerman, news director for the station, responded last night that "all the stories we reported on Ronald Rewald and his activities were accurate stories and were fair."

The suit in U.S. district court names as defendants Channel 2 anchorman Joe Moore, anchorwoman/reporter Barbara Tanabe, reporter Richard Borreca, and the station's Iowa-based parent company, Western Sun Inc.

Tanabe broke the Rewald story in a July 1983 broadcast that raised questions about his

operation. Following the broadcast, Rewald attempted suicide and his company — Bishop Baldwin Rewald Dillingham & Wong — was closed and placed in bankruptcy.

Rewald was subsequently charged in state and federal courts with theft, fraud, tax evasion and perjury in connection with the loss of millions of dollars by more than 400 investors.

Rewald says he's innocent, and that the CIA made him do what he did.

The CIA used Rewald's company as cover for some per-

sonnel, but denies creating or running the firm.

Rewald complained in his suit about Tanabe's original broadcast, and about broadcasts in October 1983. He is asking more than \$2.1 million in lost income and equity and \$10 million in punitive damages.

The suit claims that Channel 2 news "falsely and defamatorily" reported that Rewald ran an investment scam here, is Polish and changed his name from Rewaldski, has no athletic ability and never signed a pro football contract as he claimed, and never attended Marquette as he claimed.

HONOLULU ADVERTISER 16 Apr 85